

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING TASK FORCE**
Wednesday, July 14, 2004 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Senator Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Paula Julander
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Brad Dee
Rep. Craig W. Butters
Rep. John Dougall

Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser

Members Absent:

Sen. David L. Gladwell

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at www.leg.utah.gov or by contacting the task force secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting may also be available from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Valentine absent for the vote.

2. Transit Plans and Needs

The following materials were distributed to the Task Force for discussion with Agenda Items 2 and 3:

Resolution of the MAG (Mountainland Association of Governments) and the WFRC (Wasatch Front Regional Council)
Testimony of Chairman Glen H. Burton, WFRC
Testimony of Dan McConkie, Davis County Commissioner and Past Chairman of WFRC
Report to the Transportation Planning Task Force, prepared by WFRC, MAG, and UTA (Utah Transit Authority)
WFRC Communique
The Transit 2030 Plan
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, UTA
How Transit Benefits People Who Do Not Ride It: A Conservative Inquiry
Wasatch Front Area Long Range Highway and Transit Projects
MAG "Moving Forward," 30-Year Transportation Plan for Utah Valley
Long Range Transportation Plan Transit Projects
Wasatch Front Population History 1970-2000 and Wasatch Front Population Projections 2000-2030

Mr. Glen Burton, WFRC Chairman, stated that the resolution adopted by MAG and WFRC asks that the

Legislature consider transit and highways together as a package. He expressed the desire to increase the pace of transit development to address pending traffic congestion.

Mayor Jerry Washburn, Orem City, presented MAG's long-range plan regarding transit which supports projects that will meet the increasing demands of growth and the transit market. He asked that they be given the tools to work in partnership with the state to build the needed projects.

Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Midvale City, explained the importance of the Mid-Jordan LRT line to southwest Salt Lake County. She commented that transportation solutions must be reached through cooperation and joint planning. Without combined efforts, transportation growth needs cannot be met.

Mr. Carlos Braceras, UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), said their relationship with UTA and other transit authorities around the state has been healthy and cooperative for a long time. He distributed a chart titled "Shared Solution" which outlines the South Davis County North/South Corridor needs.

Mr. Robin Riggs, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, indicated they will be leading a business community effort to address the impending transportation problems and to offer solutions and resources from a business standpoint.

Mr. Joe Cannon, Chairman of Geneva Steel, discussed the development being proposed at the Geneva Steel site which is bisected by commuter rail and would attract people to use public transportation. He emphasized that Utah County's problems require a resolution prior to 2013.

Mr. David Creer, Executive Director, Utah Trucking Industry, indicated that one of the reasons the U.S. economy is productive is because of its transportation system. By 2015 there will be a 32 percent growth in truck vehicle demand. Without a good infrastructure, there will be an increase in safety problems.

3. Transit District History, Governance, and Accountability

Mr. Ben Christensen distributed "Public Transit Districts Creation and Governance" and reviewed the statutes regulating special districts and how public transit districts are governed. He discussed "Utah Transit Authority Formation and Key Funding Authorization History" which was mailed to the members.

Mr. John English, UTA, referred to the report which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He discussed UTA's Board of Trustees who over the last year developed a completely restructured approach to management and oversight of UTA .

Mr. Michael Allegra, UTA, gave a presentation on the Transit 2030 Plan. Total needed funding is estimated to be \$7.4 billion through 2030. With smart growth principles, about \$4.5 billion in infrastructure costs can be saved.

Mr. Orrin Colby, UTA Board Chair, stated that the board's process has moved from a micro management approach to a policy oversight and goal setting approach. He discussed how the board has complied with S.B. 170, Public Transit District Amendments and H.B. 157, Transportation Amendments, which were

passed in the 2004 General Session.

Mayor Tom Dolan, Sandy City, explained that passage of the legislation clarified some issues that were in question. Local officials are aware that it is their responsibility to follow through with UTA board members regarding issues concerning their area. Communications with UTA have greatly improved.

Commissioner Michael Cragun, Davis County, said he was there to represent Dan McConkie, WFRC Past President. He stated that based on a study of the feasibility of commuter rail along the Wasatch Front from Brigham City to Payson, UTA is the best choice as the implementing agency.

Mayor Dave Connors, Farmington City, stated that in order to fund demanded services, it is necessary to increase revenue sources. He said his constituents want options for travel. It is his goal to make sure those options and alternatives will be available in the year 2030.

Mayor Dennis Nordfelt, West Valley City, said they are anxious that two transit projects in the West Valley area scheduled in the first phase of the 2030 plan not be delayed. UTA, UDOT, and local governments are working together in planning these projects.

Chair Lockhart encouraged all the presenters to submit specific recommendations that the Legislature could consider for implementation.

4. Follow-up Reports and Updates

Chairman Lockhart indicated that due to lack of time, this item would be discussed at the September meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.